THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. In Central Government hospitals in Delhi *i.e.*, Dr. R.M.L. Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and LHMC and its associated hospitals Radio-diagnostic/ radiotherapy equipments, duly approved by the AERB are in use and the radiation emission are being monitored as per the guidelines/instructions issued by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB).

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences has also informed that there is no excess radiation to the patients from any of the equipments in the Institute.

Malnutrition deaths in Melghat

1184. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that since 1990 there have been deaths due to malnutrition in the Melghat region of Maharashtra as was brought to Hon'ble Prime Minister's notice during July, 2004;

(b) if so, whether these deaths are due to malnutrition or due to lack of interdepartmental co-ordination or non-availability of food; and

(c) the steps Government propose to ensure that food grain availability match the requirement of population of that area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The details of number of child death due to malnutrition is not being centrally maintained. However, malnutrition is a multifaceted problem and is not a direct cause of death but it can increase morbidity and mortality by reducing the resistance to infections.

(c) The Government has initiated several measures to improve the nutritional status of vulnerable population, including children, in the country including the State of Maharashtra to overcome the problem of malnutrition, as under:—

- Increased Agricultural Production.
- Improving the purchasing power of the people through income generating schemes.
- Availability of essential food items at subsidized cost through Public Distribution System.

- Nutrition education to increase the awareness and bringing about the desired changes in the feeding practices including promotion of breast feeding.
- Supplementary feeding programmes such as:
  - (i) Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS).
  - (ii) Special Nutrition Programme (SNP).
  - (iii) Balwadi Nutrition Programme (BNP).
  - (iv) Wheat Based Supplementary Nutrition Programme.
  - (v) Pradhan Mantri Grameen Yojana (PMGY).
  - (vi) Mid-day Meal Programme.

Programme for Prevention of Specific Nutrient Deficiency Disorders such as:

- National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme.
- Programme to prevent Blindness due to Vitamin 'A' deficiency and Nutritional Anaemia due to Iron deficiency as a part of Reproductive and Child Health Programme.
- Pilot Project for control of Micronutrient Malnutrition.

Telemedicine

1185. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had recommended guidelines and standards for the practice of Telemedicine in India and has also recommended a framework for an information technology infrastructure for health;

(b) if so, the salient features of the recommended guidelines;

(c) whether these recommendations have been put on website to initiate a public debate; and

(d) if so, the response of the public thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Department of Information Technology (DIT) constituted a Committee of experts for recommending initiatives to be taken for standardization of digitized